

Family voice session – Tuesday 31st January – 6pm

Present:

Adam Hill – Principal

Parents: Kirstie Floyd-Walker

Karen Whitton

John Whitton

Kate Lievesley

Discussion:

AH explained the school's vision for curriculum enrichment:

As you know, the school's ethos is 'With Respect and Ambition we Flourish together'. Tonight's focus is on the 'Flourish' element of this. How we support our children to flourish in their own way, to follow their own passions and interests. Beyond the statutory curriculum. Of course, reading, writing and maths is essential, but it is my belief that the personal development of the whole child is equally important. How children fit into their local, national and global community.

Therefore, we, as a school, plan and deliver many activities beyond the curriculum offer to ensure the children have the opportunity to express themselves and flourish.

This academic year, we have done the following enrichments:

After school clubs: OCRA Running Creative Film Book club Mindfulness Art Lego Recorder Board games Cheerleading	Forest school with Ranger Rob – Ongoing. Junior life skills (Year 6) Harvest festival Carol service Nativity Open the book assembly Singing with Mr Arnold Owlets Church visit Singing at Springfields Singing at Drogo Recycling afternoon Stonehenge trip	Zoo trip School council School council visit to Springfields (board games) Children in Need Odd socks for anti-bullying Coding workshops Animal encounters Interfaith day Author visit	Sporting events: Ability games Cross country Swimming Sportshall athletics Tag rugby Northcott Exeter Theatre Wildlife champions – Devon Wildlife Trust' Road safety week Walk to school – Living streets Mental health assembly and workshops Space Lab
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And have planned:

World Book day

KS2 activity days
Dogs Trust
Fire service
South West Water
Year 3 residential – Adventure Okehampton
Year 4/5 Residential – Menadue
Year 6 residential - Normandy
Art competitions
Festival of hope song

AH asked for feedback from the families on the impact of the events:

It is great that all children get involved. The ability games allowed (child) to take part in sport when they wouldn't if it was a team game. And they loved the computer coding.

AH affirmed that all children should be involved in extracurricular activities and we were pleased to run events such as ability games.

The music has been great, my child has loved singing with Mr Arnold.

AH confirmed this is continuing into this term.

It is great that the school runs clubs like Cheerleading, (child) would be nervous going to a venue to do that, but they are happy to do it in school. Plus, it is expensive if you pay for it privately, so it is giving more families opportunities to do it.

It builds confidence, they have really come out of themselves.

It is a great opportunity for them to do that.

Behaviour always seems positive at these events – when I have seen them happening, the Bridestowe children are always doing what they are supposed to!

AH spoke about pride in being a member of the school and community and how that impacted on behaviour at events.

I like that the older ones read with the little ones. It builds relationships.

A conversation followed about reading, play leaders and the 'family feel' of the school. AH confirmed children feel a sense of responsibility and pride in supporting the younger children and how this teaches care and responsibility.

It is great that, out of school, you can see the benefit of these things, the children are always polite and kind – (example given of Bridestowe child at Brownies supporting a younger child from the school)

Parents felt there was a good variety.

Improvement – more could be done on the value of money, how to budget and spend money.

AH discussed enterprise projects and possible partnership with FoBS in fundraising – children leading an element of this. Discussion around adding elements of this to the home learning.

Other discussions:

Homework: Most felt the choice was good and motivated children. Possible adaptation to reduce expectation of an 'end product'. *AH will review.*

Dress to Express day: Questions asked about event and potential mixed message of promoting mental health but then asking children to dress in best clothes – some children may feel pressured by this. *AH to review communication around this.*

World book day: What is planned? Advocating for dressing up.

AH confirmed Author visits for both KS2 classes. Discussion around the positives and negatives of dressing up – excitement for children but possible financial pressure on families and some children who do not enjoy dressing up. Suggestion that there could be optional activities – dressing up, bring a favourite book etc.

AH to review with teachers.

PE kit on PE days: Possible suggestion that children wear PE kit all day on PE days.

Discussion around positives and negatives. Would save time. Possibility of getting wet/muddy and the children needing to change.

AH to review.

Testing: Concern that times tables were not always being tested, children disappointed having practiced.

AH to review with teachers.

AH thanked families for participating.

Meeting closed at 6.50pm